

**ABSTRACT**

A device for starting an internal combustion engine comprising a first clutch member attachable to the engine, and a second clutch member attachable to a portable drive means, wherein the first and second clutch members are engageable so that the drive means transmit force through the clutch members so as to turn and start the engine, and wherein, once the engine starts, the first and second clutch members automatically disengage from each other and wherein at least one of the first and second clutch members retracts. Preferably at least one of the first and second clutch members comprises resilient biasing means against retraction. A preferred embodiment relates to a lawnmower comprising such a device.